Minister's Special Licence Auction (MSLA) Grant Application Guidelines

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Projects applying for Minister's Special Licence Auction (MSLA) grant funding will be considered relative to the Priority Objectives. The MSLA is seeking projects that make an important contribution in Alberta to:

- *Enhancing and sustaining wildlife populations and their habitats.*
- *Addressing identified knowledge gaps concerning wildlife populations and their habitats.*
- *Generating information that has practical applications for wildlife management.*
- *Applying innovative approaches to increase the efficacy of wildlife management.*

When reviewing applications, a project's alignment with the Priority Objectives is 40% of the review criteria. Additionally, applications will be considered based on relevance and presentation as follows:

Forty percent (40%) will be based upon the project's relevance to:

- *Species and issues of greatest concern to the hunting and outfitting communities.*
- *The target species that generated the MSLA revenue (sheep, mule deer, elk, moose, whitetail, pronghorn, cougar, or turkey),*
- *Wildlife management at a broad scale (i.e., beyond the local site).*
- *Advancing positive relationships between stakeholders and/or the broader public.*

Twenty percent (20%) will be based upon demonstration of:

- *A well-presented proposal that is thoroughly researched, clearly written, and concisely organized.*
- *Clear rationale, goals, methods, and deliverables.*
- *A feasible and practical plan of action.*
- *A detailed budget that suggests a reasonable return on investment.*

The MSLA typically does not provide funding for ongoing operational costs, emergency funds, or deficit financing, general fundraising, retroactive work, or land acquisition. The MSLA Grants Adjudication Committee may consider such costs in exceptional circumstances. Where capital costs are included in an application, the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS) has the first right of refusal for the ownership of the purchased items when the project concludes.

Multi-year project funding may be available. The Adjudication Committee may consider multi-year project funding in exceptional circumstances where the project's term is critical to its success. Applicants should identify in their application if they are requesting funding for multiple years, and provide the amount required for one year only.

Outstanding reports must be filed before additional funds will be released, whether through a separate grant or multi-year agreement, and must clearly identify goals, benchmarks, and deliverables for the desired terms and one year.

NOTE: Camps, hunter education/training, and community-oriented projects are no longer eligible under the MSLA. Applicants may consider applying for funds from the MSL Draw Funds or the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA)'s Conservation, Community, Education Grants (CCE). Each year, 5% of the annual net proceeds

of the MSLA are dedicated to the ACA's CCE to support non-research projects previously supported by the MSLA. Please visit www.ab-conservation.com for more information.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Government representatives may only apply in collaboration with other institutions, groups, or organizations. The MSLA will not fund applications where the federal or provincial government is the principal applicant or lead on a project. Federal or provincial government employees may be part of a project but must not be responsible for the majority of the project. Post-secondary applicants should be aware that funding is available for direct project costs only – no indirect costs will be paid.

An applicant may be disqualified for funding if they have failed to complete previous MSLA reporting requirements. An applicant may also be disqualified for funding if they have made negative public statements regarding hunting, trapping, outfitting, or the MSLA.

Grants approved from the MSLA range between $20,000 and $150,000. Applications outside these parameters are considered exceptions and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; approvals are at the sole discretion of the Grants Adjudication Committee.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate their efforts to obtain leveraged funding, up to 25% of the cost of the project annually. The MSLA Budget Template requires applicants to differentiate between Confirmed Partner Funding, Pending Partner Funding, and In-Kind Support.

The adjudication process aims, whenever possible, to award at least 50% of the funds generated by the permit sale of a particular species towards projects that are of clear benefit to the conservation, management, or knowledge of that species. However, this aim does not supersede or override any other adjudication criteria, nor bias any other assessment of quality, rigour, or relevance of a proposal. Ultimately, the discretion to award funds is within the authority of the Grants Adjudication Committee.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING INFORMATION/REQUIREMENTS

APOS makes no claim to ownership of any intellectual property or data generated through the Potential Project. Recipients are solely responsible for ensuring that all project results and associated raw data are made publicly available within 24 months of the funding end date. Recipients should notify APOS in writing when and where the data and results have been made publicly available.

Applicants are solely responsible for obtaining and maintaining all necessary permits, licences, and authorizations required to undertake the Proposed Project. The approval and issuance of funding do not constitute confirmation or verification that the applicant's licences or permits are in place. APOS will not verify, monitor, or enforce the existence, status, or validity of any permits or licences, and assumes no responsibility or liability for any consequences arising or non-compliance or failure to obtain the necessary authorizations.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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The deadline for applications for 2027-28 MSLA grants funding is Thursday, December 10, 2026. If the grant window has not yet opened, applicants can submit an informal expression of interest to begin discussions about the project and assess eligibility in advance of submitting a formal application. An expression of interest may be sent to grants@apos.ab.ca at any time. Application forms may be obtained by emailing grants@apos.ab.ca.

Committee decisions will be rendered and announced in March. Funding must be accepted within 90 days of when the grant agreement was received by the successful applicant. The Grants Adjudication Committee may, at its discretion, accept and review applications outside of the typical application and review windows.